

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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A Man with a Great Spirit!

On this morning of the death of Barney Malcom, the Morrow county community is stunned to learn of the passing of a man who, until this time, appeared to have the capacity to persevere against any adversity.

All those who knew Barney Malcom recognized him as a man of great spirit. His pervading optimism was an inspiration to his fellows and extended throughout the community, although to tell him so may have elicited some facetious remark from him.

His presence was enough to bring cheer to any gathering, no matter how dour the occasion for the meeting. Sombre faces lighted when he came into a room. He had the capacity for easing tension and for changing frowns to smiles with an appropriate quip or humorous remark.

But behind this easygoing manner were strong qualities that brought admiration—and all the more because they were disguised by his relaxed bearing.

Barney Malcom's unusual courage was apparent on many occasions — when his sawmill was destroyed by floods at Spray, when economic conditions forced closure of his mill here, and when he suffered a heart attack some two years ago. No matter what the reverse, he took it in stride and came back strong. But the nonchalance that he assumed on each of these occasions must have concealed a deeper toll.

If communities had cheerleaders, this man would surely have been president of the Pep Club for Heppner. He was a one-man Chamber of Commerce, interested in everything constructive for the community. He was the fellow with a good word for everyone; he was the one who volunteered for a confining three-day Civil Defense experiment when no one else wanted to be inconvenienced.

The spirit of Barney Malcom brought zest, flavor and character to Heppner and this part of the state. But more than that, his qualities of perseverance were of economic importance to the community. He kept his mills operating against hardships and thus brought needed payroll to the area. Among those who found employment at his Heppner Lumber Company were many young men who needed the income to continue their college work.

At the same time, he was the personification of free enterprise in a period when continuous encroachment makes this a difficult course. This individualism, in fact, may have been a contributing cause to his death.

If this man who chided himself as "Heppner's leading stud maker" were standing here now, he might say, "That's a lot of malarkey." But this is not to eulogize him, but rather, to speak the truth of him. And as residents of the community join in expressing sympathy to Barney Malcom's fine family, they will confirm that these words are true.

Ranks of the great are not confined to those who achieve widespread fame or prominence. A test of greatness lies in the hearts of one's fellow men.

It is evident this morning in the many expressions of affection and regard for Barney Malcom that this plain spoken man of blithe spirit will be remembered here as a great man.

Ominous Resolution

One "sleeper" tossed into the hopper of the House of Representatives in Salem recently is House Joint Resolution 34. It has ominous overtones for Morrow county as well as other small counties in the state.

This resolution, sponsored by Richard Kennedy, Lane county; Frank Roberts, Multnomah county; and Wayne Turner, Columbia county, would create a county reorganization commission and would authorize expenditures up to \$50,000 to study the subject of reorganization of Oregon counties, including the revision of county boundaries, and shall take into consideration population, land areas, natural geographic division, economic interests, the location of existing county seats, convenience of travel and the inclusion of entire metropolitan areas in single counties.

The preamble of the resolution points out that six of the counties have population of less than 10,000 and four others have populations of less than 5,000. (Morrow is now less than 5,000).

The resolution states that the study is needed to "develop a plan for an efficient and practical consolidation of certain counties and a revision of county political boundaries."

This quite obviously is another attempt to consolidate the lesser counties and to make the big counties bigger. Perhaps that may be predicting beyond what the resolution intends, but if that isn't the case, what is the reason for the study? This comes up at about every legislative session, as far back as the days of Richard Neuberger, when he was in the legislature.

It always is sponsored by representatives from the more populated counties, who are in the least position to know the circumstances surrounding the needs and problems of smaller counties. In this case the sponsors are from Multnomah, Columbia and Lane.

Some of the questions that come to mind are:

Why must these "foreign" representatives always delve into the doings of the smaller counties? A county like Morrow county is self-sustained. It works no economic hardship on the State of Oregon. It operates well within its budget (well below the 6% limitation this year). It has good officers. It keeps its lands appraised up to state requirements. (Even better than some of the Democratic legislators like!) Its juvenile delinquency is far below the larger counties. It received a welfare reimbursement from the state because of its efficiency in that department. Its people are happy.

What economy is to be gained? What efficiency? Does the fact that a governmental agency is large promote efficiency—necessarily? Our federal government is about as uneconomical as it can be and it is about as big as it can be. (If you don't agree, read the article on the Research Boondoggle in this month's Reader's Digest). Actually, quite the opposite is true. When the governmental agency is small—where the people can keep in touch—economy and efficiency are promoted. The public can observe and act accordingly.

One of the great dangers to our democracy—and mark this well—is that government is being removed farther and farther from the people. Consolidation of counties would be another step in this direction.

It is difficult to understand why so many politicians want to undermine our traditional democracy.

Rep. Irvin Mann sent us a copy of this resolution. If it isn't too late—and we hope it isn't—we urge that the voices of those who want to retain our county governments as they are be added to this protest on HJR 34.

TO THE EDITOR...

To the Editor:

The Boeing Blunder. Once again its ugly head is bobbing above water and it will keep bobbing up to bother Hatfield and the republications for the next 75 years, shades of the Manhattan purchase.

With substantial men refusing \$100 per acre for land no better or not as good as the Boeing lease, valuations of this land will be forced to that figure and our state legislature will have to appropriate additional funds to pay about \$100,000 taxes here on it.

The newspapers state that Morrow county is raiding the state on their tax demands and the reverse is true. Morrow county and its taxpayers were raided five years ago when this land was given to the State of Washington. This is good irritable land.

O. W. Cutsforth

February 25, 1967

Dear Wes and Helen: While retyping and revising my manuscript, "History of Morrow County," I came across this little item published in the Gazette on November 6, 1890, as follows:

"While climbing high up in a hen's roost last Thursday night, Dr. Shipley fell, bruising himself some. Since writing the above, we deem it advisable to say the doctor was in his own hen roost."

I thought this little item might interest Mrs. Mabel Harner as she is the granddaughter of Dr. Shipley, who was my doctor when I was born. All through the smallpox and diphtheria epidemic also Dr. Shipley was my doctor. His wife was a good practical nurse and very capable.

Well, like Art Crawford recently wrote, I would not feel good if I had to do without the good old "Gazette."

O. M. Yeager

Rebuttal on Boeing

With agitation flaring again in the legislature over the Boeing lease and being fanned locally in some quarters, particularly by the efforts of Orville Cutsforth, it seems in order to consider a few matters in this connection.

While Cutsforth's zeal and sincerity are as obvious as his unwavering opposition to the Boeing lease from the beginning, it can be said with certainty that he does not express a unanimous opinion for the people of Morrow county. Nor can it be said, without some documentation, that he speaks for a majority.

There undoubtedly is some disappointment that more development has not been made by the Boeing Company on the vast tract of land leased to it. This, coupled with accelerating interest in irrigating north end lands, probably has dampened local enthusiasm for the Boeing project to an undetermined extent. But it would be difficult to analyze accurately how much local ardor has cooled.

It may be that some are stumbling over their own impatience on this project. There is no reason to allege that The Boeing Company has acted in anything but good faith. It has, of course, installed a facility of \$1.5 million or more on the site. It has hired up to 35 men on the testing project, although at one time last year the operation was halted, and perhaps there is little activity there at the present time.

While the \$1.5 million investment may not be great in terms of the size of this huge company, it is a beginning. And while the hiring of 35 men is far short of the 500 that the excited county expected to arrive in a first contingent six years ago, it would be one of the largest industrial payrolls in the county.

The impatience comes in the face of repeated statements from the company and from ex-Governor Hatfield that the development would not mushroom. Perhaps many were overcome by their own excitement of the space age prospects.

Cutsforth makes no secret that he intends to do everything in his power to agitate towards the breaking of the Boeing lease, and this position seems to be music to the ears of the Democrats in the legislature, whose "flap," as Governor Tom McCall so aptly described it, is currently renewing the controversy.

As a Morrow county rancher for many years, Cutsforth believes that the future of the state and of Morrow county lies in agriculture—not industry. He is dedicated to this principle and pursues it strenuously. There are undoubtedly many who agree with him.

On the other hand, there are others who believe in a more balanced economy—those who want to encourage industry as well as agriculture. They would not concur with Cutsforth that the Boeing land was "given to the State of Washington" but rather believe that this presents an opportunity to share in a great and growing Northwest industry.

The benefits of this vast land of ours should result in prosperity to all—whether one is engaged in agriculture, industry, or some other pursuit. When The Boeing Company signed the lease with the state, it surely envisioned future development and recognized that this was a good place for it. At the same time, it is to be recalled, it specifically pointed out that it had no definite plans beyond that of the immediate testing facility.

The big expectation was—and still is—that government contracts may bring greater utility for the tracts and also that surrounding Boeing's own industrial growth will come compatible associated industries.

Now, in the face of these considerations, what is to be gained by creating hostility through agitation? If Boeing were given a big government contract today and it were announced tomorrow that a complement of 500 men would come to the county, wouldn't this be welcomed with open arms throughout the county with the exception of those who stand for agriculture alone?

And what reason is there to believe that tremendous agriculture development and industrial development cannot go hand in hand? There are some large areas in the northern part of the county that remain to be developed through irrigation before it is necessary to attempt to take lands away from Boeing.

Even if it should be determined that more lands are needed for agriculture and if nothing was ever to be done by Boeing in developing the leased tract, there is a provision for re-negotiation of the lease in 1970. That is the time to determine the future course, instead of fomenting loose and hostile talk at this time.

We're among those who join with Governor McCall in saying we don't want to insult Boeing. The company has done nothing to justify this treatment.

We tend to resent the intrusion of this agitation in the legislature at a time when there are so many important matters to be considered. Some of it has to be charged to political chicanery.

The outspoken Democrats charge Morrow county with gouging the state for reappraising the Boeing lands, ostensibly to increase the taxes that the state must pay for these lands. What an incongruous statement when the county is required by state law to keep its property appraised to true cash value! This is an affront, ironically enough, to a county government headed by a Democrat—Judge Paul Jones.

Regardless of the motives of the men in the legislature, we know Cutsforth and understand his motives as sincere, but we consider his methods ill-advised.

In his letter to the editor, elsewhere on this page, he states that the State of Oregon will have to appropriate additional funds to pay "about \$100,000 taxes here on it." However, the state last year paid only \$13,089 taxes through the Veteran's Administration, and Assessor Rod Thomson reports that taxes going as high as Cutsforth's estimate could only come about through extensive improvement on the lands.

Incidentally, one matter that has been omitted in the current "flap" is the fact that Boeing last year paid the county \$13,609.75 in taxes on its above-ground developments on the tract.

Governor McCall presents a reasonable approach when he suggests conferences with Boeing in the hope of determining what might be expected. Beyond that, the logical time to review all aspects of the case is at the time of re-negotiation of the lease in 1970.

Meanwhile, in regard to the ruckus over taxes on the land, it is possible that the admonition might apply. "Don't hold a nickel so close to your eye that you can't see a dollar in the distance."

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman



PAM McCABE, at the age of three, and friend from the Ming dynasty.

BOXER? What is Boxer? This may be the question that one might ask if he had been queried as to whether he had seen the story in the Oregonian this week on the planned Boxer "flash."

If you don't know about Boxer, you could ask Harlan McCurdy. He can tell you. Or Ed Dick; or Mrs. Roland Bergstrom of Lone; or Harry Proudfoot; or Bob Mahoney; or Ed Schaffitz; or anyone else who has ever been connected with Pacific University.

Boxer is sometimes called a Chinese idol, other times a dragon, and again, a unicorn. He (or it) apparently is cast iron, weighs some 20 pounds, and allegedly originated in 1580 when it was cast in Ming dynasty China. The name comes from the Boxer rebellion.

Since 1896, when it was given to Pacific University in Forest Grove, it has been representative of the spirit of the university. But the inference is considerably broader than this, as any old Badger understands.

Probably many who have attended Pacific have never seen Boxer. Some may even believe him to be only legendary, but he is real enough. He is held in secret by some sorority, fraternity, other campus organization or students until the holders desire to "flash" him. When that occurs, a riot invariably ensues as students battle for possession of the coveted trophy.

When the writer was initiated into Gamma Sigma fraternity many years ago, he was led blindfolded into a room and his hands were placed on this solid spindly object. When the blindfold was removed, there was Boxer.

Had other fraternities known that Boxer was exposed in this certain hall on that night, the room would have been invaded en masse and a royal battle would have followed.

When son Dick entered P. U. as a freshman in 1959—same time Bob Mahoney was there—he plunged into a fight for Boxer, got a ring caught on one of the cast iron spines. He lost a valued ring and nearly lost a finger.

Many are the places that Boxer has been hid during his colorful existence. One story has it that he was at the bottom of the Willamette River for a year or so, tied there at the end of a wire. One would hardly dare keep him for long in a residence. The place might be wrecked as the students sought him out.

There will be those who might say this couldn't be true, but these don't understand the spirit of old P. U.!

Occasion for the Oregonian story was to report that Boxer was expected to be "flashed" again. But apparently before the time arrived, Gamma Sigma members managed to steal him, and it was reported that Boxer had been spirited off to Ashland or Klamath Falls.

Boxer has suffered through the abuse taken in these imbroglios. There are some reports that he is in parts today. This has happened before but he had been welded together again. It is also said that one sorority has his tail for safekeeping. Maybe this is on the theory that "the tail wags the dog!"

A couple of years ago, it was reported to us that Boxer was in Heppner. We can't vouch for this. But we do have an idea of who could have brought him here. We didn't breathe a word of the rumor because we didn't want to incite a riot.

Occasion for this discourse, though, is the fact that Ernie McCabe saw the Oregonian article and it rang a bell with him. Fourteen years ago Fayne Ely of Lone brought Boxer to Lone, and the McCabes took a picture of their daughter, Pam, with the Spirit of Pacific. (See above). This is the same Pam who now is a cheerleader for Heppner High.

A person has about as much chance to see Boxer as he would to find a 20-dollar gold piece. But if you ever happen to be in Forest Grove and come across him, we'd advise that you not try to bring him home—run for your life!

AS HEPPNER'S MUSTANGS go to La Grande Saturday for the district basketball tournament they will add to a record previously set. This will be the fourth straight year they have won the right to go to the district. In 1965, they won the district title and went on to the state tournament at Coos Bay.

This is quite a record for a school that really doesn't have the enrollment to qualify for the A-2 ranks, but it certainly shows that they have been more than holding their own.

There will be four real good teams in the tournament, and all games should be dandies. The team that emerges shall



the light shine off that bald head of Charlie Ruggles in the office across the street for about three weeks now. Charlie has been having a mighty tough bout with old-fashioned flu, and he hasn't been able to be up and around.

He's getting better now, they tell us, and we hope to see the sun reflecting from his noggin again soon.



Coming Events

BASKETBALL

District Tournament
EOC Gymnasium, La Grande
Friday, Saturday, March 3 & 4

Friday, March 3, 9 p.m.
Heppner vs. Grant Union

Losers play first game, winners play second game on Saturday.

SUPPORT THE MUSTANGS.

LEGION AUXILIARY

Monthly meeting, Monday, March 6
Potluck dinner, 7 p.m., meetings following
Members urged to attend

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

Tuesday, March 7
All Saints' Episcopal Parish Hall
Potluck dinner, 7 p.m., followed by entertainment
Guests welcome.

SKI FESTIVAL

Sunday, March 5, 2 p.m.
Arbuckle Mountain
Ski races for all ages. Come and join the fun.

ANYONE FOR BASKETBALL?

OSU BASKETBALL, 3:00 p.m., Sunday, March 12, OSU vs. OREGON, KATU Channel 2.

Meet our man from NORTH-WESTERN during breaks in the games.

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